

COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Policy and Procedure Manual

CODE OR CANON OF ETHICS

Approved By: Kenneth Burton Chief of Police

CALEA 6th Edition Standard: 1.1.2

105 CODE OR CANON OF ETHICS

105.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy requires all personnel, civilian and sworn, to abide by a code or canon of ethics adopted by the agency and mandates that ethics training be conducted for all personnel, at a minimum, biennially.

105.2 POLICY

All personnel working for the Columbia Police Department are required to abide by the appropriate code or canon of ethics adopted by this agency following in this policy.

Further it is mandated that ethics training be conducted for all personnel of this department at a minimum of biennially. This training can be in the form of classroom, shift briefing, computer based training and bulletins, or any combination of methods as determined by the agency.

105.3 Law Enforcement Code of Ethics:

Sworn personnel shall abide by the following code of ethics. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action up to termination.

As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve the community; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation and the peaceful against abuse or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality and justice.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all and will behave in a manner that does not bring discredit to me or to my agency. I will maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed both in my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the law and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, political beliefs, aspirations, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or abuse and never accepting gratuities.

I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of police service. I will never engage in acts of corruption or bribery, nor will I condone such acts by other police officers. I will cooperate with all legally authorized agencies and their representatives in the pursuit of justice.

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I know that I alone am responsible for my own standard of professional performance and will take every reasonable opportunity to enhance and improve my level of knowledge and competence.

I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession . . . law enforcement.

(International Association of Chiefs of Police)

105.4 Civilian Code of Ethics:

Civilian personnel shall abide by the following code of ethics. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action up to termination.

As a civilian employee of the Columbia Police Department I regard myself as a member of an important and honorable profession.

I will recognize the positive relationship between good physical and mental conditioning and the performance of my job.

I will perform my duty with efficiency to the best of my ability.

My conduct and performance of my duties will be accomplished in an honest manner, contributory to my fellow workers, and observant of the laws of the city, state and country.

I will adhere to the confidentiality of the Law Enforcement profession.

I will not, in the performance of my duty, work for unethical advantage or profit.

I will recognize at all times in my duty that I am a public safety employee, and that ultimately I am responsible to the public.

I will give the most efficient and impartial service of which I am capable at all times.

I understand the importance of courtesy and will maintain it as my reference point in all my duties.

I will regard my fellow departmental employees with the same standards as I maintain myself.

I share a reciprocal affinity and obligation with my fellow employees, my administration, and my agency.

I will accept responsibility for my actions.

I will strive for those values which will reflect honor on my fellow workers, my agency, and myself.